



01-08-04

Applicant's Docket No. 1737.31

Express Mail Label No.: EV 207882265 US
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Tani AKIRA
Application No.: 10/667,528
Filed: September 22, 2003
For: EASILY CONNECTED AND SEPARATED COLUMNAR COUPLER STRUCTURE

M/S: Box DD (IDS - no fee)
Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" label number EV 207882265 US

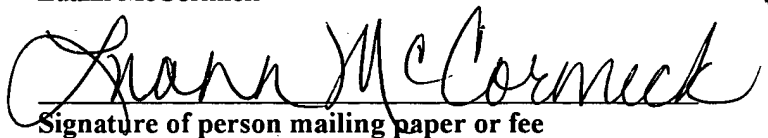
Date of Deposit: January 7, 2004

I hereby state that the following *attached* paper or fee

- Information Disclosure Statement
- PTO/SB/08A with enclosure
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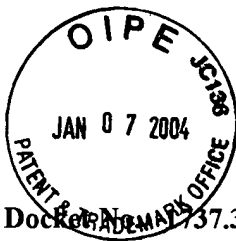
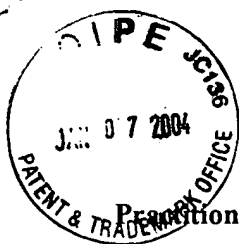
is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Luann McCormick



Signature of person mailing paper or fee

1737C31.EMC.01072004.doc



Express Mail Label No.: EV 207882265 US
PATENT

Permitter's Docket No. 737.31

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Tani AKIRA
Application No.: 10/667,528
Filed: September 22, 2003
For: EASILY CONNECTED AND SEPARATED COLUMNAR COUPLER STRUCTURE

M/S: Box DD (IDS - no fee)
Commissioner of Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))**

**IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. Forms PTO/SB/08A (formerly Form PTO-1449)
2. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement
3. Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents

Section 1. Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449)

- a. PTO/SB/08A (one page)

Section 2. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement

Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

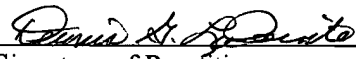
Section 3. Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents

Submitted herewith is an English translation of the following foreign language patents, publications or information or of those portions of those patents, publications or information considered to be material:

a. JP 3066911

Date: 1-7-2004

Reg. No.: 40693
Tel. No.: 727-538-3800
Customer No.: 24040



Signature of Practitioner
Dennis G. LaPointe
Mason Law, P.A.
17757 US Hwy 19 North
Suite 500
Clearwater, FL 33764

1737c31.IDS to PTO 01072004.doc

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

PTO/SB/08A (04-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

C mplete if Known

Application Number	10/667,528
Filing Date	September 22, 2003
First Named Inventor	Tani AKIRAI
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	1737.31

Sheet	1	of	2
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U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	1	JP	3066911	12-15-1999	TSU		X

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.